

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An in-vehicle device provided in a vehicle, comprising:

a commanding unit for generating a command of one of a permitting command for permitting a use of a given function of the in-vehicle device and an unpermitting command for unpermitting the use of the given function;

a controlling unit for executing one of enabling and disabling the use of the given function;

an authenticating unit for executing an authentication process when the permitting command is generated by the commanding unit while the given function is being disabled,

wherein, when the authentication process is successfully executed by the authenticating unit, the controlling unit executes enabling the use of the given function.

2. The in-vehicle device of Claim 1,

wherein the given function includes a function for setting, a function for changing setting, and a function for browsing setting contents.

3. The in-vehicle device of Claim 1,

wherein the authenticating unit includes:

an inputting unit for inputting individual information unique to a user of the vehicle; and

a registry storing unit for storing registry information registered by the user, and

wherein the authenticating unit successfully executes the authentication process when a given relationship between the individual information and the registry

information is fulfilled.

4. The in-vehicle device of Claim 1,

wherein, when a power supplied to the in-vehicle device is stopped, the controlling unit retains one of enabling and disabling the use of the given function that is executed by the controlling unit just before the power is stopped.

5. The in-vehicle device of Claim 1,

wherein, when a spare key is inserted to a key cylinder of the vehicle, the commanding unit generates the unpermitting command for unpermitting the use of the given function.

6. The in-vehicle device of Claim 1, further comprising:

a map data storing unit for storing map data including position information relating to positions of facilities on a map; and

a position detector for detecting a current position,

wherein, when a current position detected by the position detector is a position of a given facility, the commanding unit generates the unpermitting command for unpermitting of the use of the given function.

7. The in-vehicle device of Claim 1,

wherein, when the in-vehicle device is able to be powered without inserting a key to a key cylinder of the vehicle, the commanding unit generates the unpermitting command for unpermitting the use of the given function while the in-vehicle device is powered without inserting the key to the key cylinder.

8. The in-vehicle device of Claim 1, further comprising:
a position detector for detecting a current position; and
a transmitter for transmitting the current position detected by the position detector to an outside when disabling the use of the given function is executed by the controlling unit.

9. The in-vehicle device of Claim 1,
wherein the given function dose not include a function enabling the vehicle to travel.

10. The in-vehicle device of Claim 1,
wherein the in-vehicle device includes a navigation device.

11. An unauthorized-use restraining method for an in-vehicle device provided in a vehicle, comprising steps of:

disabling a use of a given function of the in-vehicle device based on a command for unpermitting the use of the given function;

executing an authentication process based on a command of permitting the use of the given function while the given function is being disabled; and

enabling the use of the given function when the authentication process is successfully executed.

12. The unauthorized-use restraining method of Claim 11,
wherein the given function dose not include a function enabling the vehicle to travel.

13. A vehicular control device for controlling an in-vehicle device provided in a vehicle, comprising:

a determining unit for determining one of permitting and unpermitting a use of a given function of the in-vehicle device, the given function which is not necessarily required for traveling of the vehicle; and

a controlling unit for causing, when the determining unit determines unpermitting the use of the given function, a prohibition state where the use of the given function is prohibited,

wherein the traveling of the vehicle is permitted in the prohibition state, and

wherein the prohibition state caused by the controlling unit is continued until the prohibition state is released.

14. The vehicular control device of Claim 13,

wherein the given function that is not necessarily required for the traveling of the vehicle includes a function enabling the vehicle to run, turn and stop.

15. The vehicular control device of Claim 13, further comprising:

an authenticating unit for providing an authentication by successfully executing an authentication process when permitting the use of the given function is determined by the determining unit,

wherein, when the authentication is provided by the authenticating unit after the authentication process is successfully executed, the prohibiting state is released.

16. The vehicular control device of Claim 15,

wherein the authenticating unit includes:

an inputting unit for inputting individual information unique to a user of the vehicle; and

a registry storing unit for storing registry information registered by the user, and

wherein the authentication process is successfully executed when it is determined that a given relationship between the individual information and the registry information is fulfilled.

17. The vehicular control device of Claim 13,

wherein the given function includes a function for setting, a function for changing setting, and a function for browsing setting contents of the in-vehicle device.

18. The vehicular control device of Claim 13,

wherein, even when a power supplied to the vehicular control device and the in-vehicle device is stopped, the prohibition state caused by the controlling unit is retained at earliest till the power re-starts to be supplied to the vehicular control device and the in-vehicle device.

19. The vehicular control device of Claim 13,

wherein, when a spare key is inserted to a key cylinder of the vehicle, the determining unit determines unpermitting the use of the given function.

20. The vehicular control device of Claim 13, further comprising:
a map data storing unit for storing map data including position information relating to positions of facilities on a map; and
a position detector for detecting a current position,
wherein, when a current position detected by the position detector is a position of a given facility, the determining unit determines unpermitting the use of the given function.

21. The vehicular control device of Claim 13,
wherein, when the vehicular control device and the in-vehicle device are able to be powered without inserting a key to a key cylinder of the vehicle, the determining unit determines unpermitting the use of the given function while the vehicular control device and the in-vehicle device are powered without inserting the key to the key cylinder.

22. The vehicular control device of Claim 13, further comprising:
a position detector for detecting a current position; and
a transmitter for transmitting the current position detected by the position detector to an outside when the prohibition state is caused by the controlling unit.

23. The vehicular control device of Claim 13,
wherein the in-vehicle device includes a navigation device.

24. An unauthorized-use restraining method for an in-vehicle device provided in a vehicle, comprising steps of:
determining unpermitting a use of a given function of the in-vehicle

device, the given function which is not necessarily required for traveling of the vehicle;

causing, when unpermitting the use of the given function is determined, a prohibition state where the use of the given function is prohibited although the traveling of the vehicle is permitted; and

continuing the caused prohibition state until the prohibition state is released.

25. The unauthorized-use restraining method of Claim 24, further comprising steps of:

determining permitting the use of the given function while the use of the given function is being prohibited;

executing an authentication process after permitting the use of the given function is determined;

providing an authentication after the authentication process is successfully executed; and

releasing the prohibition state.